

Quantitative corpus onomasiology

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This talk intends to present an overview of various types of corpus-based variation studies that we have been conducting in my research team Quantitative Lexicology and Variationist Linguistics and that I believe could be interesting for the study of conceptual change. Specifically, I will introduce the distinction between semasiological and onomasiological variation, and show how the usage-based, pragmatic turn of contemporary semasiology is mirrored in a distinction between formal and conceptual onomasiological variation (with a further distinction between direct and indirect approaches to the latter). I will argue that an onomasiological perspective is the most relevant one for the study of conceptual change, and illustrate the various perspectives with a methodological focus on the diagnostic concept of 'onomasiological profile' and the use of semantic vector spaces.